

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WARSAW 02515 130842Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

-----130933Z 050921 /10

R 130613Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7541

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 2515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PL XH

SUBJ: EVALUATION OF RFE/RL BROADCASTING

REF: (A) WARSAW 2139, (B) 76 WARSAW 7822, (C) 76 WARSAW 7661

1. SUMMARY. THE POLISH SERVICE OF RFE/RL HAS CONTINUED TO GIVE LISTENERS COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF WORLD EVENTS AND HAS PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT DOMESTIC EVENTS NOT REPORTED IN THE POLISH MEDIA. WE BELIEVE RFE/RL'S DETAILED REPORTING HAS HELPED FORCE LOCAL MEDIA TO TAKE STANDS ON ISSUES THEY WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE IGNORED. AS A RESULT, RFE/RL HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF STEADY ATTACKS. CAREFUL ADHERENCE TO BIB BROADCASTING GUIDELINES AND INCREASED ATTENTION TO PROGRAMMING DETAILS ARE CALLED FOR AS BELGRADE '77 APPROACHES. END SUMMARY.

2. RFE/RL REPORTING OF DOMESTIC EVENTS IN POLAND FOLLOWING THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 WARSAW 02515 130842Z

JUNE DISTURBANCES WAS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE POLISH PUBLIC. DETAILS ON WORKERS' TRIALS, PROTESTS WITHIN POLISH SOCIETY, AND MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST PROTESTERS WOULD HAVE GONE LARGELY UNREPORTED IN POLAND IF RFE/RL HAD NOT TRANSMITTED THEM. IN ADDITION TO THE NEWS, THE RADIO'S COMMENTARY ON DEVELOPMENTS PROVIDED THE KIND OF DETAILS AND BACKGROUND LISTENERS NEEDED. THE HANDLING OF

PROCURATOR GENERAL CZUBINSKI'S REPORT TO THE SEJM COMMISSION
FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN FACTS AND VIEWS (NO. 5120, NOVEMBER 3)
IS AN EXAMPLE OF VERY EFFECTIVE REPORTING.

3. RFE/RL COVERAGE OF POLISH DOMESTIC EVENTS WOULD BENEFIT FROM GREATER ATTENTION TO DETAILS AND STYLE. AS NOTED IN FACTS AND VIEWS NO. 5186, CATCHWORDS EVOKE STRONG RESERVATIONS IN THE MINDS OF MANY POLISH PEOPLE. RFE/RL SHOULD NORMALLY AVOID GRATUITOUS USE OF GENERAL REFERENCES SUCH AS "STALINISM" OR "STALINIST METHODS", AS IN FACTS AND VIEWS NO. 5186 OF JANUARY 24. ON THE OTHER HAND, SUCH TERMINOLOGY WAS USED EFFECTIVELY IN FACTS AND VIEWS NO. 5178 OF JANUARY 14, WHICH FOCUSED ON THE CONCRETE EXAMPLE OF CENTRALLY ORGANIZED "POPULAR INDIGNATION." SIMILARLY, THE USE OF THE WORD "TERRORIZE" SEEMS EXTREME IN DESCRIBING REGIME ACTIONS AGAINST INTELLECTUALS IN AN OTHERWISE SOUND COMMENTARY ON GIEREK'S AMNESTY PROPOSAL IN FACTS AND VIEWS, NO. 5199 OF FEBRUARY 8. WE ALSO QUESTION THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EMOTIONAL COLORING AND SWEEPING STATEMENTS FOUND IN SPECIAL PROGRAM NO. 6750 OF JANUARY 2, REVIEWING THE YEAR'S EVENTS.

4. OFFICIAL POLISH CRITICISM OF RFE HAS INTENSIFIED SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR RFE/RL (REF A). COMMENTARIES ON PREVIOUS REGIME ATTACKS AGAINST "ANTI-POLISH FORCES" ABROAD (FACTS AND VIEWS NO. 5105 OF OCTOBER 16, FACTS AND VIEWS NO. 5097 OF OCTOBER 7), AND IN FAVOR OF FREE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION (FACTS AND VIEWS NO. 5165 OF DECEMBER 28, FACTS AND VIEWS NO. 5187 OF JANUARY 25, FACTS AND VIEWS OF FEBRUARY 18 M6) WERE EXCELLENT REBUTTALS. PARTICULAR CARE IN FUTURE PROGRAMMING IS NECESSARY TO AVOID PROVIDING AN OCCASION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 WARSAW 02515 130842Z

FOR SUCH ATTACKS AS THAT ON RFE'S REPORTING ON MARIAN OLEDROWICZ (REF B).

5. THE GOP OFFENSIVE AGAINST RFE/RL IS LARGELY BASED ON THE ARGUMENT THAT THE POLISH SERVICE IS STAFFED BY "SO-CALLED POLES" WHO LEFT BECAUSE THEY HAD NO CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE TO THE NEW SOCIALIST SOCIETY. WHILE THE AVERAGE POLE DOES NOT SHARE THIS OPINION, HE REMAINS SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM FROM ABROAD, WHICH, IN HIS VIEW, COMES EASILY TO THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEMS OF LIFE IN POLAND. AS A SMALL BUT NOT ISOLATED EXAMPLE OF EXAGGERATED CRITICISM, FACTS AND VIEWS NO. 5102 DECLARED THAT THE "TRUE ROLE OF THE MILITIA" WAS EXEMPLIFIED BY ITS BRUTALITY AND REPRESSION OF THE JUNE EVENTS, AN ASSERTION THAT DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE OF MOST CITIZENS. FACTS AND VIEWS NO. 5114 OF OCTOBER 27 DEALT WITH THE SAME ISSUE WITHOUT RESORTING TO SUCH BROAD GENERALIZATION.

6. RFE/RL EFFECTIVELY PROJECTS A POSITIVE IMAGE OF POLISH INTELLECTUAL LIFE ABROAD WITH SUCH EXCELLENT COVERAGE AS THE

MARCH 4 REPORTING ON THE VISIT OF KOLAKOWSKI AND MICHNIK TO ROME.

7. WE AGAIN QUESTION THE DESIRABILITY OF TAKING SIDES IN THE ZNAK CONTROVERSY, BEGINNING WITH FACTS AND VIEWS NO. 5160 OF DECEMBER 20, AND REFLECTED IN THE DAILY BROADCAST ANALYSIS OF FEBRUARY 10. WE QUESTIONED A SIMILAR APPROACH DURING THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE LAST YEAR (76 WARSAW 2096) AND WERE GRATIFIED BY THE IMPROVEMENT WHICH FOLLOWED (76 WARSAW 7366). IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE EPISCOPATE PREFERS TO TREAT THIS MATTER AS DISCREETLY AS POSSIBLE.
DAVIES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STANDARDS, INTERVENTION, RADIO BROADCASTING, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977WARSAW02515
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770127-1078
Format: TEL
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770459/aaaabzqs.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2738b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 WARSAW 2139, 76 WARSAW 7822, 76 WARSAW 7661
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2812597
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EVALUATION OF RFE/RL BROADCASTING
TAGS: PFOR, PL, US, XH, RL, RFE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2738b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009